

CONFIDENTIAL.]

[No. 30 of 1905.]

REPORT

ON

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 8th July 1905.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE.		PAGE.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(A)—General—	
Persian politics	641	A postal complaint from Rajshahi	649
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		A postal complaint	ib.
(a)—Police—		The Tangail post office	ib.
Crime in the Mymensingh district	641	The Postal Guarantee Fund	650
Allegations against a police daroga in Jessore	642	The partition question	ib.
Lawlessness near Basirhat, district 24-Parganas	643	The partition scheme and the Prince of Wales's	
Lawlessness in Mymensingh	ib.	ensuing visit to India	ib.
(b)—Working of the Courts—		The higher administration of the Indian Army	651
Nil.		The question of military administration in India	ib.
(c)—Jails—		Lord Curzon's discomfiture	ib.
Nil.		Lord Curzon's rumoured resignation	ib.
(d)—Education—		Mr. Brodrick on the question of Lord Curzon's	
Mr. Pedler's successor in the office of Director of		resignation	652
Public Instruction, Bengal	643	His Majesty's Birthday celebration	ib.
The proposed change in the Medical Course in the		Mr. Carey's memorial to the Viceroy	ib.
Calcutta University	644	The Indian budget in the House of Commons	ib.
The new scheme of vernacular education	645	Plague	ib.
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administra-		Indian political aspirations	ib.
tion—		Her late Majesty's Proclamation violated	653
Water-scarcity in the Karrya quarter of Calcutta	646	III.—LEGISLATION.	
A municipal complaint	ib.	Nil.	
A complaint against a European officer of the office		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
of the Port Commissioners	ib.	Nil.	
(f)—Questions affecting the Land—		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE	
Nil.		PEOPLE.	
(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals		The prospects of the crops	653
and Irrigation—		VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
Jhickargacha Ghat station on the Bengal Central		The approaching Royal visit	653
Railway	646	The approaching Royal visit	654
The Bengal Central Railway	ib.	A contradiction	ib.
A railway complaint	ib.	The story of the wolf and the crane	ib.
The new timing of trains on the Eastern Bengal		The Chinese boycott of American goods	655
State Railway	647	Why Indians are hated by Europeans	656
The Howrah-Amra Light Railway	ib.	Mr. Kerr, Collector of Midnapore	ib.
A railway complaint	ib.	A kind-hearted Magistrate	ib.
A railway complaint	648	East and West	ib.
The Bengal-Nagpur Railway	ib.	URIA PAPERS.	
A railway complaint	ib.	Weather in Balasore	657
Suggested necessity of canal excavation in		The crops	ib.
Bengal	ib.	The crops	ib.
A suggestion	ib.	Education of the minor landholders of encum-	
		bered estates in Chota Nagpur	ib.
		The weather and the crops in Talcher	ib.
		Improvement of the methods of weaving in	
		Bamra	ib.

URIYA PAPERS—concl'd.

A higher class girls' school in Cuttack ...	657
The weather and the crops in Cuttack ...	ib.
Fever at Cuttack ...	ib.
The weather and the crops in Puri ...	658
The health of Puri ...	ib.
The weather at Jeypur ...	ib.
A meeting at Jeypur in aid of the Earthquake Relief Fund ...	ib.
Eye-disease in Jeypur ...	ib.
The late Dewan of Mayurbhanj ...	ib.
The late Dewan of Mayurbhanj ...	ib.
Swan Jatra ceremony at Puri ...	ib.
The question of the improvement of the agricultural classes ...	ib.
The results of the Government Colleges and Schools in Orissa at the University Examinations ...	ib.
Breaches of marriage contracts in Orissa ...	ib.

ASSAM PAPERS.

Cattle-pounds in Sylhet ...	658
The Sylhet Jail ...	659

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

THE *Roznama-i-Mukaddas Hablul Mateen* [Calcutta] of the 3rd July has the following:—

Persian politics.

Of the two Powers, namely, England and Russia, each is trying its best to establish its own influence in Persia. Russia's present crisis has afforded England a good opportunity to overthrow Russia's predominancy in that country, and it seems that she has been able to win the confidence of the Persians in preference to Russia. But to the Persians both are the same and, therefore, as they ought to keep themselves aloof from the Russians so they ought to entertain a fear for the English. Although the latter seem to be a little more kind than the former towards Persians, in the long run it will be seen that they have in store for us the same venom as was brought by the Russians. Both of them intend to murder us, the difference being only that one has assaulted us with the sword and the other intends to put us to death by hanging. Now Russia may show us leniency, but we must know that our enemies' honey is mixed with venom and their praises with satire.

ROZNAMA-I-MUKAD-
DAS HABLUL MATEEN,
July 3rd, 1905.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 27th June publishes the following list, supplied by a correspondent, of cases of outrage and attempt at outrage on females which have occurred within the jurisdiction of the Muktagacha outpost and thereabouts in the Mymensingh district since *Baisakh* 1311 (B. S.):—

CHARU MIHIR,
June 27th, 1905.

(1) Attempts were made to outrage the modesty of the following women, but the *budmashes* were prevented by villagers from carrying out their purpose:—

Daughter-in-law of Ledhu Shaikh, an inhabitant of the Gojanga village.

Daughter-in-law of Muchi Shaikh, an inhabitant of Badikathal.

Widow of the late Korpanali Shaikh, of the Bejbashi village.

Wife of Rakman Shaikh, of the Bejbashi village.

Wife of Ajal Shaikh, of the Ketanpur village.

Wife of Ili Shaikh, of the Badikathal village.

(2) The wife of Omar Shaikh, of the Ketanpur village, was forcibly carried away from her house and released after eight days. The poor woman died a few days after the outrage.

(3) An unmarried daughter of Kalu Shaikh, of the same village, was carried away one night and released on the following morning.

(4) The wife of Tanu Shaikh, of the Sribashi village, was kept concealed by *budmashes* for eight or ten days and then released. Her husband has put her away and she is now living in her father's house.

(5) The daughter-in-law of Brajanath De, of the Dhitua village, was forcibly carried away and released after a few days. Brajanath has been out-casted by the other members of his society.

(6) The wife of Ghena Shaikh, of the Teghri village, was carried away one night and kept concealed for about seven days. Afterwards, on her husband's refusing to take her back, the *budmashes* forced the man to sign a release from his wife. The woman is now living in a certain Shaikh's house.

(7) A daughter of Fatumir Shikari, of the Benipur village, was one day forcibly carried away by *budmashes* and afterwards released.

(8) The wife of one Bhabi, of the Bejbashi village, was similarly released after two days' concealment.

(9) The daughter-in-law of Taju Shaikh, of the Bagherbashi village, was saved from the clutches of *budmashes* when she was being forcibly carried away by them.

(10) A daughter of Jaula Shaikh, of the Ghatari village, was forcibly carried away and made the *sika* wife of Sarmali, Jinnatali's brother.

(11) The wife of Ajal Shaikh, of the Benipur village, was forcibly carried away and kept concealed for about ten days. Afterwards when Ajal abandoned her, she became the *nika* wife of one of the *budmashes*. The lower Court convicted the *budmashes*, but they were released on appeal.

(12) The widowed sister of Dengudi, of the Ghatari village, was carried away one night and sent home the next morning.

(13) The sister of Bengu Patni was kept concealed for seven or eight days by some *budmashes*. Bengu brought a case against them, but it was dismissed for want of evidence. No one dared to give evidence against the *budmashes*.

(14) The wife of Kailas De, of the Dhitua village, was carried away and kept concealed for four or five days. Afterwards Kailas refused to take her back. She is now living in the house of a certain Shaikh in the Ghatari village.

(15) Some *budmashes* have forcibly carried away the wife of Juma Shaikh, of the same Dhitua village, and kept her in their own houses.

(16) A number of *budmashes* committed outrage on a certain Vaishnavi, of the Kavindrabashi village, on a public road in broad daylight.

(17) In the month of *Jaishtha* (B. S.) last, a number of *budmashes* forcibly entered into the house of Babu Ram Kumar Chakravarti, of the Ghatari village, and were carrying away a maidservant, when she was rescued by some people.

Cases like the above are occurring almost every day. People fear to give evidence against the culprits. The houses of some of those who did so have been burnt down by the *budmashes*.

Referring to the above, the editor says that all sorts of serious crimes, such as rape, dacoity, burglary, &c., are increasing every day. What is the cause of this? Crimes generally increase in a country when its Government is unsettled and weak. But the British Government in Bengal cannot be called so. Government will, therefore, it is hoped, enquire into the cause of the increase of crime in the country.

Among the districts of Bengal, Mymensingh occupies the foremost place in regard to crime. Theft, dacoity, incendiarism, &c., are rampant within the Tangail subdivision. Crime is also fearfully prevalent in the other subdivisions of the district. But it makes one's hair stand on end to see the manner in which bands of *budmashes* commit oppressions in the Chhalra, Chapuri, Ghatari, Mankan, Dulla, Katalsar, Dhitua, Kurhiparha and other villages within the sadar subdivision. They set fire to people's houses on slight pretexts. They belabour and rob wayfarers in broad daylight. Above all, they commit outrages on women. No beautiful young girl is safe in the locality. The *budmashes* will never lose an opportunity of outraging her modesty even in broad daylight and in the presence of her elders. The writer is informed that some of the *budmashes* have married a number of women after having forcibly carried them away from their houses.

People do not venture to give evidence against the *budmashes*. Cases against them are, therefore, generally dismissed or withdrawn. In one or two such cases some of them were punished. But after their return from jail they realized large compensations from those who had complained against them. Some of the *budmashes* were handed up for trial under section 110 of the Criminal Procedure Code through the honest endeavours of some of the zamindars of Muktagacha, one of whom actually gave evidence on the side of the prosecution. But it is a wonder that the case was dismissed on the ground that the zamindars took interest in it. The local zamindars are, consequently, powerless in checking the *budmashes*, whose oppressions—especially their outrages on females—have compelled many people to forsake their native homes and live in distant places.

JASOHAR,
June 28th, 1905.

3. A correspondent of the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 28th June says that Rahim Buksh, daroga of Kesabpur in Jessore, although he draws pay at the rate of only Rs. 50 per month, never travels except in a palanquin carried by eight bearers, and keeps a horse and a *syce*, though disease has incapacitated him from riding. His household is a large one. It is a matter worth inquiring into by his superiors how with an income of only Rs. 50 he manages to live in his present princely style. A petition was some time ago presented to the District Superintendent of Police against him, alleging

that he did not conduct investigations properly, and did not keep regular diaries; that he always travelled in a palanquin, and extorted *palanquin* hire and *nazzars* from the parties who appeared before him; and, finally, that he abused and maltreated the *chaukidars* and made them do his own household work. The petition was duly forwarded to the Sadar Inspector for inquiry, and the inquiry was held in due course, and every charge made was substantiated, but the nature of the report which the Inspector finally sent in has not yet transpired. Another petition has since then been presented against the daroga to the District Magistrate of Jessore, by one Kumud Bandhav Bose, the son of the late Sital Chandra Bose, of Madardanga. From the statements made in this petition it appears that on the death of the petitioner's father, news of the death was duly carried to the thana by a *chaukidar* and there duly entered in the proper register. Later on, the daroga, on coming to know that Sital Babu's life was insured, sent for his son, the petitioner, to the thana, and demanded Rs. 200 from him, threatening that if not paid he would see that the petitioner did not get the insurance-money. On the petitioner pleading his inability to pay, the daroga changed the date of death, as entered in the thana register of deaths, from the "4th" to the "5th."

The correspondent concludes by pointing out that this daroga was once before degraded, and by promising further accounts later on of the manner in which he harassed a man living under his jurisdiction whom he suspected of informing his superiors of his misdeeds.

4. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 1st July complains about the prevalence of lawlessness on the road running from Taki to Basirhat in the 24-Parganas district, constructed by the late Kali Nath Munshi. It is alleged

HOWRAH HITAISHI,
July 1st, 1905.

Lawlessness near Basirhat, district 24-Parganas.

that a number of low-caste people lie in wait on this road and, taking advantage of those hours at night or at midday when it is almost unfrequented, pounce on casual passers-by and strip them of their valuables. In a recent case a man was so severely assaulted that his life was for a time in jeopardy. It is understood that some time ago, in view of the prevalence of this sort of lawlessness, it was proposed to open a police outpost here and quarters for the purpose were even constructed, but nothing has yet come of it. At present the local people are in such a panic as regards the use of this road that nobody now dares to pass it without suitable escort, specially at night.

5. The *Swades Sampad* [Mymensingh] of the 3rd July writes that lawlessness and oppression had fearfully increased in the villages Sankchura, Galakata, &c., in the neighbourhood of the Ghafargaon thana. Setting fire to houses after the doors of these had been fastened from outside; stealing of cattle from stalls, and killing them for the sake of the skins; terrible assaults by dacoits on those who dare to give them chase—these and other forms of crime have for a long time been reported from these parts. On *hat* (fair) days, the thieves make inquiries to know which householder had purchased the best fish or other edible. The next morning the householder gets up to find that even his cooked fish has disappeared from his kitchen. Things have come to such a pass that householders do not feel it safe to allow any young female relations (whether wife or sister or otherwise) to stay in the village with them. Numerous inoffensive passers-by are molested on the public streets in connexion with the (*tetas*) three-card form of gambling which is carried on in these places. Many victims of these oppressions do not always dare to speak out, for fear of further oppression.

SWADES SAMPAD,
July 3rd, 1905.

Lawlessness in Mymensingh.

hood of the Ghafargaon thana. Setting fire to houses after the doors of these had been fastened from outside; stealing of cattle from stalls, and killing them for the sake of the skins; terrible assaults by dacoits on those who dare to give them chase—these and other forms of crime have for a long time been reported from these parts. On *hat* (fair) days, the thieves make inquiries to know which householder had purchased the best fish or other edible. The next morning the householder gets up to find that even his cooked fish has disappeared from his kitchen. Things have come to such a pass that householders do not feel it safe to allow any young female relations (whether wife or sister or otherwise) to stay in the village with them. Numerous inoffensive passers-by are molested on the public streets in connexion with the (*tetas*) three-card form of gambling which is carried on in these places. Many victims of these oppressions do not always dare to speak out, for fear of further oppression.

(d)—Education.

6. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th June writes:—

Mr. Pedler's successor in the office of Director of Public Instruction, Bengal.

We learn on trustworthy authority that Mr. Pedler will vacate his present office of Director of Public Instruction, Bengal, in the month of March next, and that his successor is to be Mr. Earle,

lately Secretary to Government.

SANJIVANI,
June 29th, 1905.

What people suspected has exactly happened. The public feared that under Lord Curzon's *regime*, a strong and autocratic rule would be firmly established in India in all departments of the administration—in the High Court, in the Judicial and Police Departments, in the Government offices as well as in the Education Department.

By putting a civilian in the office of Chief Judge of the Chief Court of Burma, Lord Curzon has found a means to guide the administration of justice at the discretion of Government. And by bringing the District Judge in Bengal under the authority of the Divisional Commissioner, the former class of officers has been practically subordinated to the executive Government.

The higher ranks of the Police are no longer to be open to the sons of the soil. Even Police Inspectorships are being largely filled by Europeans, so that the police will henceforth be an agency of terrible severity.

There is a rage for appointing Europeans and Eurasians in the Government offices. Half-educated European and Eurasian youths are being placed over the heads of educated Indians. And the harsh rule of the former is severely harassing the latter.

The Universities Act, in the opinion of the public, heralded the placing of the educational system of the country completely under the thumb of Government. By virtue of this law, the colleges have been brought completely under the control of Government, including even those colleges which do not accept even a farthing's worth of grant-in-aid from the State. The very existence of the private colleges is now a matter of suspense and anxiety with the public. The Director of Public Instruction has long been exercising control over the Government colleges in the province. He has also all along practically guided the course of both higher and lower education in the province. But ever since the day Mr. Pedler became Director, the dignity of his office has dwindled and he has become merely an agent to carry out the behests of the Secretary to Government in the Education Department. And from March next, a civilian will obtain complete control of the Education Department.

Mr. Pedler's predecessors were all selected from among the ranks of competent professors and others of experience in the Education Department. The filling up of the highest post in the department by a civilian will mean a grave injury to the members of the department as a body. It is now clearly their duty to enter a protest against the proposed appointment without delay.

A civilian as the head of the Education Department will be a serious menace to the country at large. With a man as Director of Public Instruction who never once in his life undertook the work of teaching, or inspected a school, and who possesses no acquaintance with the educational circumstances of the country, vigorous executive rule will be established in the Education Department.

SANJIVANI

7. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th June writes :—

The proposed change in the Medical Course is the Calcutta University. Thanks to the new Universities Act, the Medical Faculty is now manned by a majority of Government officers. An excellent opportunity now offers therefore for these officials to satisfy their whims. Dr. Bomford has become the guide and leader of the Faculty. A proposal was recently made by him to increase the course of study for a degree from five to six years. And, as a matter of course, the proposal obtained the support of those members of the Faculty who hold appointments under Government. We publish below a letter which the Government of India addressed to the Government of Bengal on receiving intimation of this revolutionary proposal :—
Confidential.]

No. 341.

FROM M. HAMMICK, Esq., C.I.E.,

Offg. Secretary to the Government of India,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL,

Educational Department.

Simla, the 25th May 1905.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

(EDUCATION.)

SIR,

I am directed to address the Government of Bengal in continuation of Mr. Rialley's letter No. 232-235, dated the 31st March 1905, enclosing memorandum prepared by Surgeon-General Bomford on the proposed amendment of the regulations for the grant of medical degrees by the Indian Universities.

2. I am to explain for the information of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor that there was an omission in the letter of 31st March last, which I am now to rectify. One of the proposals put forward in the memorandum by Surgeon-General Bomford is that the ordinary medical course should be raised from five to six years, and in support of the proposal it was urged that when the English course was four years the Indian course was five years, and that as the former has been raised to five years, the latter should be extended accordingly. The Government of India entertained serious doubts as to the adoption of this particular proposal and the consequent extension of the total University course to eight years. It must be admitted that a more thorough training could be given in six years than in five, but no evidence has been adduced showing that the existing course is too short, and it is noteworthy that the Universities Commission did not recommend that it should be lengthened, nor, so far as the Government of India are aware, has any representation been made that, if regard be had to the emoluments and status of Assistant Surgeons, their professional qualifications are inadequate.

3. I am accordingly to request that the Government of India may be favoured with the Local Government's opinion on this proposal before any action is taken to give effect to it

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) M. HAMMICK,

Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

The course for a medical degree in England was four years, when the present course in India was fixed at five years. And because the course in England has now been added to by a year, therefore the course in India also is to be similarly increased. It is strange logic, the value of which the India Government has been unable to appreciate. We trust that all those members of the medical faculty who were hitherto supporting Dr. Bomford, will now withdraw their support, for they know very well that the authority of the Government of India is superior to that of Dr. Bomford.

8. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July makes the following criticism of the new scheme of vernacular education in Bengal:—

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 1st, 1905.

- (1) Much of the students' time is wasted in such occupations as drill, drawing and playing with the Kindergarten box.
- (2) The lower and upper primary text-books under the new scheme are much inferior in quality to those which obtained under the old scheme.
- (3) The language of the new text-books is often very bad.
- (4) It is impossible for a teacher in an upper primary school to do all the work that is required of him under the new scheme, by way of teaching drill, drawing, Kindergarten subjects and text-books. Moreover, the system of giving rewards to teachers has been abolished. Another drawback of the new scheme is that it makes the student depend on his teacher, and not on a public examination, for a certificate.
- (5) In the two books, both named "*Sikshak Sahachar*," prescribed for the guidance of the teachers of upper and lower primary schools, it is laid down that students should be made to mark the rise and setting of the sun. Where will the teacher find his boys at the times of sunrise and sunset? The books should have been prescribed for the guidance of the boy's parents, and not their teachers.
- (6) The aids at present given to schools are insufficient for the upkeep of a course of teaching under the new scheme.
- (7) The new system of oral examination by Deputy Inspectors of Schools for the award of scholarships is bad. The very presence of the Deputy Inspector often frightens the little boys out of their wits. Sometimes the Deputy Inspectors keep the boys standing for six or seven hours continuously.

The writer concludes by praying for a reversion to the old system.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

SOLTAN,
June 30th, 1905.

9 The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 30th June complains that on the King's Birthday, the 26th June last, an auspicious day which should be a day of rejoicing for all loyal subjects, the citizens of Calcutta were put to the sore harassment of an inadequate supply of water. The inadequacy was specially notorious in the Karrya quarter of the town. The editor of the paper testifies that in his own house, the water that came out of the tap barely sufficed to meet the requirements of the family cooking and drinking, and he had to do his bathing elsewhere. The vast majority of the inhabitants of this quarter of the city are Musalmans, and very poor withal. So it is the Musalmans who are going through all this misery. Is this the return of the excessive taxes with which the poor citizens are harassed at every step? Where can the Calcutta Municipality hide its shame? What is the Municipality existing for, if people are to die for want of water? For the Municipality which after sucking the blood of the poor can provide its Chairman with a seat valued at Rs. 500 and its Commissioners with seats costing Rs. 175 apiece, for such a body without sense of duty or responsibility as it is, to try to kill the poor citizens with an insufficient supply of water on the King's Birthday is after all a natural proceeding.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
July 3rd, 1905.

10. The *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd July draws the attention of the Calcutta Municipality to the fact that the rate-payers of the Muchipara Ward have suffered a great inconvenience on account of short supply of water morning and evening for the last few days.

HITAVARTA,
July 2nd, 1905.

11. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July is sorry to hear that a European officer of the office of the Port Commissioners pulled the ear of a native clerk of the same office for a certain offence. It is to be hoped that the Secretary of the Port Commissioners' office will take the case into his consideration and warn the above European officer against such treatment.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

JASOHAR,
June 28th, 1905.

12. The *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 28th June writes that the passing of the Bengal Central Railway under the direct management of Government will necessarily be followed by many changes, but it is to be hoped that the abolition of Jhickargacha Ghat station will not be one of them. This station has been a great convenience to passengers in regard to the safety of their lives and property as well as in regard to transport by boat, steamer or bullock-cart. If it is abolished, the old station will very probably be revived, which is distant by a whole mile from the bazar to which the passengers will necessarily have to resort for shelter and food. And travelling this distance at night in inclement weather, specially with females accompanying, is an experience which he who has once gone through it will never in his life forget.

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 30th, 1905.

13. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th June regrets that no reforms are proposed in the working of the Bengal Central Railway by the authorities of the Eastern Bengal State Railway. One of the pressing reforms may be instanced here now that the management of the former line is about to be transferred to them. There is a so-called extra train running on the Bengal Central Railway from Sealdah every Saturday afternoon. But this is only the ordinary daily 6-53 train which starts about an hour earlier on Saturdays and not an additional train. Those who fail to catch this 5-45 train on Saturday find no other means of going home on that day, and it is a well-known fact that many a merchant office in Calcutta does not close before 5 or 6 p.m. on Saturdays.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 4th, 1905.

14. A correspondent writes to the same paper of the 4th July complaining of the inconvenience which has been caused by the recent arrangement whereby the two trains to Khulna which replace the old No. 11 up and No. 12 down trains on the

Bengal Central Railway from the 1st July, are not to touch at Phultala station. It is claimed that this station was daily made use of by a large number of persons connected either with the Khulna Courts as clerks, suitors or pleaders, or with the Daulatpur College and School and by others, the total number of whom mounted up to over 150 heads daily, except on Sundays.

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 30th, 1905.

15. A correspondent of the same paper of the 30th June says that the changes in the timing of the trains on the Eastern Bengal State Railway which are to come into force from the 1st July will cause great inconvenience to a large section of passengers. For persons intending to travel from Bogra in the direction of Parbatipur there will be only one train, No. 33, at the Bantahar Junction available during the day. People from Damukdia and the neighbouring places have frequently to go to Chuadanga to attend law-courts. They will in future have to arrive at Chuadanga at midnight by No. 34 train and, while returning, will have to wait till 4 A.M. for No. 33 train, because the train, which will arrive at the place at 11 A.M. will be too late, and train No. 16, which will leave the place at 4 P.M., will be too early for them. The shortening of the route of train No. 7 by the distance between Porhadah and Sara will also be a source of great inconvenience. The northern section of the Eastern Bengal State Railway commands more *through* passenger traffic than *local* passenger traffic. The number of *through* trains should, therefore, be increased rather than diminished.

It is a great hardship for passengers by trains Nos. 15 and 75 to wait for two long hours at the Parbatipur station for the purpose of catching trains Nos. 16 and 76. There is hardly any waiting-room in the station, and the one which is under construction will prove of no use to Rangpur and Jalpaiguri passengers. No. 76 train goes up to Manihari, but all its passengers are made to leave it at Parbatipur. This is also a source of inconvenience and trouble.

The running of trains Nos. 7 and 15, and 16 and 8, in the Eastern section at intervals of one hour and a half will not be of any special convenience to passengers. But a great deal of convenience to passengers can be secured by making train No. 15 start from Calcutta before the Darjeeling Mail train and making it follow the latter from Naihati or Ranaghat and by making train No. 33 start from Calcutta at about 7 A.M. Train No. 34 also can, with advantage, be made to start from Siliguri six hours later. In fact, the arrangement of supplying three or four down trains at Jalpaiguri and Saidpur all within ten hours and leaving the remaining 14 hours without any such train is sure to cause hardship and inconvenience to passengers. Therefore, either the above suggestions should be adopted, or the present timing of the trains maintained. Moreover, train No. 8 should be made to join the eastern and northern sections by a little alteration in its timing. As passengers travelling for distances short of 200 miles are not allowed to travel by the Darjeeling Mail train, it should be seen that the timing of the other trains is made convenient for them.

HOWRAH HITAIISHI,
July 1st, 1905.

The Howrah-Amta Light Railway.

16. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 1st July complains about the prevalence of overcrowding of passengers in the trains and the absence of proper arrangements for a supply of drinking-water to the passengers on the stations of the Howrah-Amta Light Railway.

17. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 1st July complains that the intending passengers of the Delhi Express Mail suffer a great inconvenience at the Howrah station,

BHARAT MITRA,
July 1st, 1905.

A railway complaint. for the doors of the carriages being kept closed just at the time when they should be open, the coolies in charge of the keys of the carriage-doors do not unlock them without taking some bribe from the passengers. The Luggage Inspector harasses the third-class passengers in an unbecoming manner. If he finds one or two seers in excess of the quantity exempted under the law in any passenger's personal luggage, he realizes the charge of the whole without making any concession.

The goods clerk and the coolies in charge of the weighing scales at the Howrah station generally take bribes from consignors on condition that they will not calculate one, two or three seers being in excess of 10, 20, 30 or 40 seers. Such jobbery occurs even in the Railway Parcels Office at Barabazar.

If an inquiry is made by the Railway authorities, most probably the offenders will be caught red-handed. The East Indian Railway authorities ought to take the matter into their consideration as early as possible.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 2nd, 1905.

18. A correspondent of the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July writes:—

A railway complaint.

A train hitherto used to leave Howrah station on the East Indian Railway every Saturday at 2-40 P.M. This train was specially convenient for those who were booked for stations between Bandel and Burdwan, for it did not touch at any station between Howrah and Chandernagore except at Serampur, and accordingly reached its destination earlier than the up Loop mail. But since June last a new arrangement has come into force, by virtue of which this train has to stop at all stations and has besides, to go to a siding at Panduah in order to make way for the up Loop mail. The effect has been that at all stations above Panduah, the train arrives nowadays an hour later than before. And an hour's addition in a total journey of three or four hours is no small matter. It has seriously inconvenienced the many passengers who use this train to visit their homes in the mufassal after their week's work in town.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
July 5th, 1905.

19. Referring to the fact that the income of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway

The Bengal-Nagpur Railway.

for a portion of this year exceeds by 16 lakhs the income for the corresponding period of last year, the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] of the 5th July observes that the income of this line is sure to be still more increased if the following grievances of the passengers travelling on it are redressed:—

- (1) Third-class passengers are put to no end of trouble and discomfort.
- (2) Passengers paying fare for intermediate-class accommodation have almost daily to travel third class.
- (3) Many stations are unprovided with waiting accommodation for third-class passengers.
- (4) The incivility of the railway employes is an annoyance to the passengers.
- (5) Trains are often so overcrowded that they cannot take in new passengers, who are thus left to all the discomforts of a long period of waiting at the stations.
- (6) Traders do not consider it safe, for fear of thefts, to send their merchandise by this railway.

MEDINI BANDHAY

20. The same paper writes that a Musalman youth intended to travel with his wife from Santragachi to Haur station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway at about 10-30

A railway complaint.

o'clock at night on the 1st July last. The youth, after putting his wife in a female compartment, found no time to board the train himself, which accordingly left without him. He was then in great anxiety and requested the station staff at Santragachi to wire the facts of his situation to Haur, where a palanquin with bearers had been previously arranged to be in waiting to convey his wife. The station staff promised to do so, but the youth, on arriving at Haur by the next available train, learned that no such wire had been received there, and, furthermore, that his wife had not alighted there either. It is to be hoped that the party through whose culpable neglect the young man has missed his wife will be properly brought to book by the railway authorities.

SOLTAN,
June 30th, 1905.

21. The *Soltan* [Calcutta] of the 30th June writes that Bengal was once

Suggested necessity of canal excavation in Bengal.

pre-eminently a land of rivers, but the lapse of time has gradually reduced the majority of these rivers to a lamentable condition. And as a result of the deterioration of these rivers, many once flourishing seats of commerce have likewise decayed. For illustration, one might point to the cases of Dacca and Jessore. Owing to the silting up of the stream Bhairab, on which Jessore stands, the town has been converted into a very hot-bed of malaria. River-borne trade is one of the principal causes of a country's prosperity, and the gradual silting up of the rivers in Bengal is seriously interfering with this source of the national wealth. If things are allowed to go on as now, very soon almost all the rivers will disappear from the face of the country. In spite of the increasing facilities for communication provided by railways and

steamers, boats have conveniences and recommendations of their own. Again, apart from purposes of communication, the silting up of the rivers in the province is seriously interfering with the interests of cultivation. Rain-water is daily becoming the one resource of the cultivator for irrigating his fields.

Canals are required in all parts of the province. Canals can effect a wonderful improvement both in commerce and agriculture. They will also aid in improving the health of the country by draining away the stagnant and contaminated water of the *bils* and *jalas*. The cost of the construction of these canals might be recouped from tolls on boats using them and from rates charged on the use of their water by cultivators for purposes of irrigation.

A vigorous policy of canal-construction is as much a necessity in Bengal as in the Punjab, where its need has been recognised by Government. There is no other way of remedying the present distressful condition of the province. The silted-up rivers must be re-excavated and new canals dug. The earth dug out in the construction of the canals might be utilised in the construction of roads in their neighbourhood. River-borne trade in Bengal will be greatly benefited by two water-ways running straight, one from Goalundo to Calcutta, and another from Calcutta to Khulna. This is a question which requires the attention, not only of Government, but of the zamindars and the public as well. What is wanted is that Government should construct all over Bengal canals like those it has already constructed in Midnapore and Orissa.

22. A correspondent of the *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July is responsible for the following suggestion :—

A suggestion.

Under the existing system, Government digs a canal and sells its water to cultivators to irrigate their lands with, at certain fixed rates. It is suggested, as an extension of this principle, that in each village where there is any scarcity of water for purposes of cultivation, Government should re-excavate one or two existing tanks or excavate one or two new ones, if necessary, and recoup itself for the cost of these works by making the cultivators pay a very small charge on the use of the water of these tanks. And the charge might be abolished as soon as the capital expended on the undertaking is realised from its proceeds. The water should then be open to the use of the local cultivators free of all cost, but under such restrictions as may be found desirable.

BANGAVASI,
July 1st, 1905.

(h)—General.

23. The *Hindu Ranjika* [Rajshahi] of the 28th June complains that under the new arrangements for the transmission of mails which are being introduced in different parts of the Rajshahi district, a letter now takes three days to reach the addressee where it formerly took one. This is the lamentable pass to which the new arrangements have led in the majority of the villages in the Natore and Naogaon subdivisions.

A postal complaint from Rajshahi.

HINDU RANJIKA,
June 28th, 1905.

24. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 2nd July refers to a notification said to have been recently issued from the local post office, to the effect that from the 1st July, the Calcutta mails are to be delivered on the day following the one on which they are received, but that a system of "window delivery" is to be kept up for the convenience of such people as can avail themselves of its advantages. It is urged that this new change has been made only in the interests of the local steamer company, to the great inconvenience of the general public and specially the trading sections of it. An appeal is made to the Director-General of the Post Office for redress.

A postal complaint.

DACCA PRAKAS,
July 2nd, 1905.

25. The same paper notices the following allegations in connexion with the Tangail post office :—

DACCA PRAKAS.

(1) Persons going to deposit money in the Savings Bank after 12 noon are turned away, on the plea that the regulation time for accepting deposits has expired. On the other hand, persons going before 12 are, on one plea or another, delayed till almost the evening before they can get their business satisfactorily transacted.

- (2) The sale of stamps is in charge of a peon, who is rarely found at his post. A person has to wait 10 or 15 minutes and give a good many loud calls before the peon turns up.
- (3) So much as an hour's delay often occurs before a telegraph message presented for transmission is actually accepted.
- (4) The mail bag for Goalundo, though it is despatched at 7 o'clock in the morning, is closed the previous evening. It might be kept open till the early hours of the morning.

HITAVARTA,
July 2nd, 1905.

26. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July is glad to hear that the Postmaster-General has abolished the system of deducting a certain sum from the pay of each postal clerk for the purpose of paying off the sums now and then misappropriated by the postal clerks.

SANJIVANI,
June 29th, 1905.

27. In noticing the recently revived rumour that the partition proposal has obtained the actual sanction of the India Office, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th June writes :—

The partition question.

The splitting up of the Province of Bengal into two will mean absolute ruin to the Bengali race. Bengalis can feel this, but after the effort of the late terrible agitation against the proposal a reaction has taken place and they seem to have got tired. It is our firm belief that if the extraordinary zeal with which East Bengal originally began the agitation had been kept up in its original strength for some length of time, if our case had been represented with earnestness before the English Government and the English public, and before the King, there would have been no chance for Lord Curzon's proposal being sanctioned. It was proposed to keep a strong agitation on this question alive both in England and in India, but nothing was actually done in this matter. Delegates were to have been sent to England to voice the native feeling on the question, but the scheme fell through. We appeal to the public of Bengal once again to set on foot a vigorous agitation. If the Bengalis wish to save their life as a nation, let them at once go up to Lord Curzon with a petition of protest signed by ten lakhs of people. Let also some qualified delegates interview the Secretary of State in London with another petition of protest, with twenty lakhs of signatures in it. We cannot believe that everybody is bent on bringing about the ruin of Bengal. We still appeal to our fellow-citizens to be hopeful and to be active. But further delay would be the undoing of so many days' work, and our indifference on this occasion will bring misfortune on our fatherland. We therefore call on all to work with renewed resolution.

CHARU MIHIR,
June 30th, 1905.

28. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 30th June says that no other proposal of the British Government in India ever set up such a commotion in the public mind as that which has been raised by the proposal to divide Bengal.

Lord Curzon has, with his own eyes, seen the heart-rending outburst of the popular feeling in East Bengal in the matter. Does the civilised and enlightened British Government really attach no value to the people's feelings? But the Government seem blinded by prestige. It was prestige which drew Lord Curzon to Mymensingh. What wonder, therefore, that the British *raj* should sacrifice the feeling of the people at the altar of prestige. But why give up all hope? Government has not yet announced the decision of the Secretary of State for India in the matter. Gather your strength, O! sons of East Bengal, and once more make a vigorous attempt to convince the Government of the great injury that would be done to you by the proposed partition of Bengal. Do not give up the contest till the question is finally settled. Does Lord Curzon think that the curse of seven crores of loyal subjects is worthy of no consideration at all?

The Prince of Wales is coming to India and arrangements are being made to receive the future Emperor of India with befitting loyalty. But if the proposal to divide Bengal is carried out, it is doubtful whether Bengal, with her heavy heart, will be able to join the reception with sincerity. It is inconceivable why on the eve of the Royal visit Lord Curzon is going to plunge Bengal into mourning. Even if the partition scheme has a political purpose, still, considering the feeling of the Bengali nation on the subject, it should not be carried out on the eve of such a memorable occasion as the ensuing visit of the

Prince of Wales. It is, however, hoped that the proposal will be abandoned, at least in honour of that august personage whose name will occupy a brilliant place in the history of India of the present year.

29. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 29th June has the following with reference to the question of the recent changes in the higher administration of the Indian Army:—

The higher administration of the Indian Army.

In spite of the unpopularity of Lord Curzon with the native public, unpopularity which owes its origin to various causes, on the present question there is not the least shred of any difference of opinion between His Excellency and the Indian people. We do not wish to say anything as to whether Lord Curzon has any regard for the people of this country. But at any rate it is not the wish of anybody that a military rule should be established in India. Rather we are afraid of the very suggestion. The face of the country already wears the aspect of a cremation ground, and the fearful sights of a cremation ground will daily become more and more prominent under a strong military rule. So Lord Kitchener's victory has alarmed us to the last degree. A real feeling of unrest has come over the public mind in contemplating the future condition of India.

30. Referring to the difference of opinion between Lord Kitchener and Lord Curzon on the question of military administration in India, the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 1st July says that the ultimate object of both is the same, namely, to reduce the Indian people completely to a state of slavery under the English. They differ only in the means to be adopted for the attainment of that object. Whilst Lord Kitchener desires to accomplish the object by mere force, Lord Curzon proposes to keep the army in the background and do the same thing by craft and Machiavellism. Lord Curzon has given a Judgeship here and a Commissionership there to the Indians, but practically he has made all the high and medium posts the monopoly of Europeans and Eurasians. Under him the Education Department has been converted into a machine for turning out so many slaves and dependents of Englishmen. He has given the Indians plainly to understand that the only course left to them is to live under English rule, and if he can remain in India for five years more, he will be able to make their dependence complete. Lord Kitchener, however, does not like to take such a round about way and desires to establish this slavery of the Indians at the point of the sword. This is the point of difference between Lord Curzon and Lord Kitchener. The Indians have no choice to make between them. The one is as bad as the other in this matter. Both are worshippers of blind force, although their methods of worship are different. And it is a fun to see two such votaries of the same goddess fight with each other.

31. The same paper expresses great satisfaction at the discomfiture which Lord Curzon has suffered at the hands of the Secretary of State on the question of military administration in India. Pride must have its fall and Lord Curzon's pride has been shattered to the dust. The curse of all India is upon his head and it has been lowered. It does not matter whether he was right or wrong on the particular question of military administration, but it is sure that the discomfiture which he has suffered is the fruit of his evil *karma* in India.

32. With reference to the rumour now current that Lord Curzon has intimated to the Home Government his intention of resigning office, unless certain modifications are accepted by them in their recent orders on the subject of the higher administration of the Indian Army, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 29th June writes:—

This is not a bad idea on Lord Curzon's part certainly. If even this gives some solace to Lord Curzon, why should not the Home Government prove agreeable, in order to conciliate both sides? Lord Curzon is not at all impulsive, and, besides, his desire to stay in India is keen. India, although to many Europeans it is a land associated with diseases of the spleen and the liver, with malaria and mosquitoes, with plague, cholera and small-pox, with excessive heat and, worst of all, with the Bengali newspapers, troublesome like so many bugs, is still a country for which Lord Curzon retains a good

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
June 29th, 1905.

SANDHYA,
July 1st, 1905.

SANDHYA.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
June 29th, 1905.

share of affection. So, the thought of a sudden resignation of office is extremely disagreeable to him. But Lord Kitchener has troubled him sorely. Let a little healing ointment be applied in some shape or other and then he may not make any more difficulty about his continuance in office.

SANDHYA,
July 1st, 1905.

33. The *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 1st July says that the other day Mr. Brodrick made a statement which was far from true when he said in the House of Commons that Lord Curzon had not sent in his resignation. When the highest officials under the British *raj* are in the habit of making inaccurate and equivocal statements, how could Lord Curzon have the presumption to impugn the veracity of the people of the East?

BHARAT MITRA,
July 1st, 1905.

34. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 1st July is sorry that this year no one in India has been included in the list of His Majesty's Birthday honours. Perhaps this is the first time that the people longing for the Birthday honours have been disappointed.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 1st, 1905.

35. Referring to Mr. Carey's memorial to the Government of India against the Lieutenant-Governor's decision in his case, the *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July writes as follows:—

We are really sorry for Mr. Carey. It is not gratifying to be an educated gentleman, a civilian holding a post of high responsibility, showing such fickleness of mind as to make his conduct a subject of adverse criticism in the press and of censure by the Government. And yet for the punishment which Mr. Carey has received at the hands of the Lieutenant-Governor he alone, and no one else, is responsible. He should, however, be thankful to His Honour for having dealt with him in a lenient spirit. His petition to the Viceroy is, therefore, altogether unjustifiable.

Mr. Carey says that the Lieutenant-Governor has sacrificed his career "to the insistence of the Bengali press." But can he tell us why of all the civilians in Bengal he alone was marked out by the Bengali press as the object of its attack? Does he mean to say that he is the only member of his service who is faithful to his duties and that all the others are subordinate to the Bengali press? The Viceroy has been told that Hooghly is "the most difficult district in Bengal" and that its inhabitants have taken a delight in putting him into trouble. If this is true, why were not his predecessors in Hooghly similarly attacked in the Bengali press? It is hoped the Viceroy will calmly consider the matter.

HITAVART,
July 2nd, 1905.

36. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July says that some members of the British Parliament who have the good of India at heart asked some questions in connection with the budget of India when it was placed on the table of that house. But sorry to say, they could do no good for India. India cannot expect any good from the British Parliament so long as there is an insufficiency of Liberal members.

HITAVARTA.

37. Commenting upon Reuter's telegram that the Secretary of State for India has not mentioned, in his report, the measures adopted by the Government of India against the outbreak of plague because the Indians themselves do not care to take any step against it, the *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July asks:—

What ought to have been done by the Indians? They acted fully up to the directions laid down in the Plague Rules. But when no measure could cope with the epidemic, they found it no longer wise to strictly adhere to them. Then how is it that the whole blame has been thrown on the Indians?

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 2nd, 1905.

38. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July has the following:—

Our prayers are for very small concessions. Grant to us the same rights that you have granted to your subjects in Australia, New Zealand, Canada and South Africa. Extend to us the same consideration which they receive at your hands. Our only prayer is that you look on us with the same eyes with which you look on the Australian sheep farmer, the African trader and the Canadian cultivator. We want nothing more than this.

Thirty crores of the population of the country, with the oldest civilisation on earth, approach you to-day with this prayer. If we prove unfit, then take back the rights which we may have acquired by begging, place us under stronger bonds than now. Give us once an opportunity of testing our worth by competition with the other classes of your subjects. Our good or evil lies wholly in your hands. If you wish it, you can place these thirty crores on the highest pinnacle of progress; so again, if you wish it, you can put them on the lowest level of degradation. It is because you wield to-day the rod of government over these thirty crores that you are what you are, pre-eminent among the empires of the world. Will you not satisfy the very small ambition of these thirty crores of people?

39. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 2nd July has the following:—

Her late Majesty's Proclamation violated.

If Her late Majesty's Proclamation had made a distinction between coloured and white, the Indians could have understood that the Government would fill up their higher posts by the people of their own nationality and that they could not look for such posts. But the officials are depriving us of the privilege given us by our ruler and are thus breaking the Royal promise. The Indians go to England in order to qualify themselves for the higher appointments of the State, and after having passed the hardest competitive examination they come back to their native land having lost their caste and they are cut off from their society, but the progress which they make is far from being satisfactory. Her late Majesty thought it wise to grant us some privileges. It is to be asked why the officials are going to deprive us of them. The Indians see that every nation is advancing in civilization, but they who are the subjects of the enlightened British Government have been deprived of that benefit. Every nation has a position in the world of which it is proud, but it is the unfortunate Indians who are beating at every door for being enlisted as doorkeeper, but fail to get it.

HITAVARTA,
July 2nd, 1905.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

40. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July writes:—

The prospects of the crops.

About half of the month of *Asarh* is over, but where is rain? From various parts of the mufassal we are receiving complaints of drought. The prospects of the *aus* crop are gone; the *aus* seedlings have been spoiled by the heat of the sun's rays. The *aman* seedlings are in an equally distressful condition. Exposure to the sun's rays has turned them here into yellow and there into black. If the rains set in towards the close of *Asarh*, the cultivators will not be able to sow a single *bigha* of land for want of seedlings, and the season is far too advanced to permit of new seedlings being again rear. The prospects of the hemp, jute and sugar-cane crops are almost on a par with those of the paddy. Then, again, as regards *jhinga*, *sasa*, *kachu*, *begun* (brinjal) also the outlook is equally hopeless.

BANGAVASI,
July 1st, 1905.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

41. In connection with the meeting which is to be held next week at

The approaching Royal visit.

the Calcutta Town Hall to consider the arrangements for giving the Prince of Wales a fitting welcome to the city, the *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 29th June expresses itself in favour of the proposal that the native inhabitants should give His Royal Highness a separate welcome, on the ground that in a joint reception with Europeans, there is little likelihood of native style and ideas in such matters obtaining sufficiently prominent recognition. It is further suggested that the Belgachia Villa is the most suitable place for such a reception, and the Prince personally will no doubt be glad to see with his own eyes the place where his Royal father was once similarly entertained. And, finally, the name of His Highness the Maharaja of Cooch Behar is brought forward as the most suitable one for the office of Chairman of the Reception Committee which is to be formed on the occasion.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-ANANDA
BAZAR PATRIKA,
June 29th, 1905.

SANDHYA,
July 3rd, 1905.

42. With reference to the suggestion in connection with the Royal visit to Calcutta next winter, that on that occasion a separate reception should be given to His Royal Highness by the Indian inhabitants in a native style in some suitable place in the northern parts of the city, on the analogy of the reception accorded to the present King at Belgachia gardens in 1876, the *Sandhya* [Calcutta] of the 3rd July expresses the opinion that, considering the circumstances of the Indians people, to make a grand affair of receptions like these is simply a way of injuring one's own interests. If the Prince goes away seeing with his own eyes that the native inhabitants of Calcutta have given him a separate welcome of their own, with extraordinary magnificence, will he at any time later on ever believe in the truth of the popular cry of Indian poverty? And specially if one considers the hard times on which the country has now fallen, it becomes difficult to understand how one can ever think of rejoicings and festivals. The Prince is coming, and a demonstration of loyalty must be made. But it should be made as simply and cheaply as possible if it is to harmonise with the actual circumstances of the people.

SANJIVANI,
June 29th, 1905.

43. Referring to the allegation about the Lieutenant-Governor (noticed in paragraph 40 of the Report on Native Papers for the 10th June, 1905), the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 29th June publishes the following letter from His Honour's Private Secretary:—

L. G.'s CAMP, BENGAL,
The 17th June 1905.

SIR,

The attention of the Lieutenant-Governor has been drawn to a statement in your issue of the 1st instant to the effect that, in a private conversation with a zamindar who called on him, His Honour described Raja Peary Mohan Mukerji and Mr. A. Chowdhury as "professional agitators." His Honour would not consider it necessary to contradict this statement, so far as he himself is concerned; but it involves an insult to the two gentlemen named. I am therefore to inform you that the statement is untrue, and to request that you will contradict it in an early issue of your paper and forward a copy of the contradiction to me. His Honour has consulted, and will continue to consult, the two gentlemen named, regarding whom he did not make the statement attributed to him.

I am,

Yours truly,

W. GOURLAY.

and then continues:—

We give publicity to this letter with the greatest pleasure. Raja Peary Mohan Mukerji is a zamindar who possesses education, character and courage. Mr. A. Chowdhury is one of the foremost men of the province. When we heard that His Honour had described these two gentlemen to a certain zamindar as "professional agitators" we felt surprised and sorry. We are glad to know that His Honour did not say any such thing to any zamindar. That His Honour will consult Raja Peary Mohan and Mr. A. Chowdhury on all sorts of public questions is truly news which has filled us with joy and will similarly gladden the people of the whole province. The zamindar by giving publicity to unfounded allegations did a highly reprehensible thing.

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 30th, 1905.

44. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th June has the following:—
Æsop's story of the wolf and the crane is familiar to the reader. The full significance of this story was not, however, perceived by us when we first read it at school in our boyhood, never dreaming that it had any wider or deeper import than the plain literal interpretation of it which the pedagogue gave to us and little suspecting the profound political teaching which underlay that seemingly simple story. But with increasing years we find this story of the wolf and the crane repeated ever and anon on all sides of us. When the carters in Calcutta struck work sometime ago, so that all trade was at a standstill for a time, we found many a white wolf in the person of merchants running about like Æsop's wolf. The Commissioner of Police and the Chairman of the Corporation also ran about waylaying everybody and vowing eternal obligation to whoso could pull out the bone which had stuck

in their throats. But no one was able to pull out the bone and ease their pain. At last, induced by promises of reward, or in other words of justice, the carters themselves pulled out the bone. The wolf felt relieved. But there is no sign yet of the reward that was promised.

To get rid of the extortions of the police, the hackney-carriage drivers at the Howrah station once went on a similar strike, with the result that railway passengers, on alighting, were put to serious inconvenience for want of carriages. The authorities found it necessary to make large promises in order to get the bone in their throat pulled out. The bone was pulled out, but the extortion still continues in full force; nay, has rather increased, for we now find a full anna extorted for each trip in place of the former half anna. For it is a peculiarity of our wolf that he runs about only so long as the bone remains sticking, and the bone once pulled out, he is quite another creature.

Looking into the pages of history, we find the same thing taking place on a wider stage. In 1756, on the eve of the battle of Plassey, a bone stuck in the throats of the white traders. The East India Company was at that time in imminent danger of being expelled from Bengal. The wolves with Clive at their head were in sore uneasiness, when a number of Bengali cranes, induced by promises of good government, pulled out the bone and the wolves felt eased. But as soon as the descendants of those cranes asked for the promised reward, the wolves reddened their eyes, gnashed their teeth and roared out:— "Wretches that ye are! To ask for a reward when ye should consider yourselves fortunate in that ye can yet eat your fill and are not exterminated like the aborigines of America!" We still seem to hear the sound of that gnashing.

The bone that stuck in 1857 was such as to make all wolves all over India uneasy by the pain it caused. It was a number of black cranes that then extracted the bone and thereby saved the lives of the wolves. The reward that the wolves promised at that time is known under the name of the Queen's Proclamation. But whenever the cranes talk of that reward the gnashing, roaring and red eyes of the wolves are enough to silence them. Everywhere it is the story of the wolf and the crane over again. When the descendant of him who, induced by the offer of Cashmere as a prize, drew the bone out of the wolf's throat at the time of the Sikh War, was disgraced and in a manner dethroned by Colonel Nisbet, it put us in mind of this story of *Æsop's*.

Whenever the English have appropriated to themselves any new territory such as the Punjab, Oudh, the North-Western Provinces, etc., they have had the bone drawn out of their throats by wheedling Bengali interpreters and officers. Now that the bone is out and is not likely to stick again, they have begun to look at Bengalis with reddened eyes. Outside India also, wherever it has been found necessary to have the sticking bone out, the Sikh, the Gurkha, the Mahratti and the Rajput of India have been made use of. But as soon as there has been a talk of reward, the wolf has rolled its reddened eyes and roared.

Most of the Western peoples have been showing this wolf characteristic. So long as Europeans required the services of Negroes they imported shipfuls of Negroes to America. But now that the white population has grown in number and the need of Negro labour has ceased to be felt as imperative, they are showing themselves in their true colours. Nowadays oppression of the black by the white is to be heard of every day in some place or other in America. A bone now sticks in the wolf's throat in South Africa. The wolf, seeing that there is not much to hope for from the Indian crane, has therefore taken to wheedling the Chinese crane. But the yellow crane feels that its reward for extracting the bone from the wolf's throat will be no better than what the black crane has got for the same service. The yellow crane therefore hesitates to thrust its beak into the wolf's mouth. The black crane has learnt wisdom by bitter experience: the yellow crane is learning wisdom from the fate of its black congener.

45. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th June writes:—

The Chinese boycott of American goods.

At last the United States Government has decided that Chinese travellers and merchants in America should not henceforth be subjected to any ill-treatment by its emigration officers, and this decision is the outcome

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 30th, 1905.

of the Chinamen's resolution not to purchase American goods. If the Indians follow the example set by the Chinese in this matter, they, too, can save themselves in many ways from the oppressions of European merchants. But where is there among them that firmness, unity and love for their fellow-countrymen which are necessary for such combined action? The policy of going on strike often does considerable good to weak people. And much of our miseries is due to our forgetfulness of this truth. When the signallers of the Great Indian Peninsula Railway struck work, would not the railway authorities have been obliged to give a fair consideration to their grievances if the signallers of other railways had joined the strike? A glance at the history of Europe shows that even in the field of politics, the policy of strike is capable of achieving brilliant results. The Indians suffer because they do not realise this.

DAILY HITAVADI,
June 30th, 1905.

46. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 30th June writes as follows:—

Europeans hate us for three reasons: (1) because we are a subject nation, (2) because we are an Eastern nation, and (3) because we are black.

Why Indians are hated by Europeans.

(1) Loss of independence produces meanness and narrowness in men's minds by making them dependant on others in everything. It makes them satisfied with small favours from their rulers. Concessions which are regarded as only ordinary incidents of life by other people are considered highest privileges by a nation which has lost its independence. The manner in which we Indians cry for such a shadow of self-government as we find in our Municipalities, Local Boards, District Boards, &c., is hardly calculated to inspire respect for us in the minds of independent nations.

(2) Our second fault is that we are an Eastern nation. Europeans think that they were born to rule and we to be ruled. Display of physical strength is the only means of disabusing their mind of this false notion. And any Eastern nation which follows the example set by Japan will extort respect for itself from Europeans.

(3) Our third and greatest fault is our colour. But as this is really no fault at all, it is useless to discuss this point.

BANGAVASI,
July 1st, 1905.

47. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July notices the benevolence and humanity said to have been displayed by Mr. Kerr, Collector of Midnapore, on a recent occasion towards one of the *punkha* coolies of his Court.

Mr. Kerr, Collector of Midnapore. It appears that at noon on the 15th June last this man, while in the actual work of pulling Mr. Kerr's *punkha* in the Court premises fainted from excessive heat. Mr. Kerr took the man up in his own arms, and carried him to his room, where he applied restoratives. He also took the trouble of personally going to call the Civil Surgeon promptly to attend to this case. And it was this promptness on Mr. Kerr's part which practically saved the man's life for, as the Civil Surgeon expressed it, another 10 minutes' delay would have been too late, and he had been called in just in the nick of time. After the man had come round, Mr. Kerr had him conveyed to hospital and also sent some money to his home for the temporary support of his family.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
July 3rd, 1905.

48. In noticing the case in which the Magistrate of Midnapore showed kindness towards his *punkha*-puller who was attacked with sunstroke, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 3rd July observes that the Magistrate in question has done no more than a man ought to have done as his duty, and being a Magistrate, he discharged his proper duty. It is true that nowadays many English *hakims* neglect their duty and act in a fiendish manner. The act of the Magistrate in question, therefore, is being looked upon with respect for which he deserves thanks. This incident has reminded us of Messrs. Beatson and Allen.

DAILY HITAVADI,
July 1st, 1905.

49. The *Daily Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 1st July writes as follows:—

East and West. Poets like Kipling will for some time continue to say that "East is East and West is West" and that the East is the "white man's burden," and rulers like Lord Curzon will also indulge in such expressions as "Oriental diplomacy." But a time will come when the tables will be turned, and the expression "white man's burden" will have to be changed into "white man, a burden." The expression "East is East,

West is West" also will no longer imply a superiority of the West and "Oriental diplomacy" will be the name of the highest form of statesmanship. It may be long before this change will be completed, but its first signs are visible even now. The Anglo-Japanese alliance is an unprecedented event in the history of the East. And although the Powers making it were not actuated by motives of pure love, it has saved Japan from a combined attack of the European Powers and removed, for some time at least, the possibility of a Russian invasion of England's granary, India. The alliance, however, possesses a feature worthy of note. It is an alliance between equals. When before in the history of the world did a Western Power enter into an alliance with an Eastern nation in order to save its empire from the clutches of another Western Power? If the first Power in Europe has had to seek the help of an Eastern Power, "Oriental diplomacy" must have a new meaning given to it. If Japanese statesmanship is to be called Oriental diplomacy, the word "Oriental" must mean "perfect."

Eastern peoples need not, therefore, be ashamed of their colour and think that "Occidental" means good and "Oriental" means bad. In the past Western Powers came to the East for earning their bread; in the new age that has dawned they will have to seek the help of the East for self-preservation. Then will the Western poet sing—

You are all good to us.
While some of you are very beautifully fair,
Some are beautifully black.

URIYA PAPERS.

- | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------------|
| Weather in Balasore. | 50. The <i>Samvad Vahika</i> [Balasore] of the 22nd June says that rain is expected to fall soon in Balasore. | SAMVAD VAHIKA,
June 22nd, 1905. |
| The crops. | 51. A correspondent of the same paper writes to say that paddy plants are perishing through want of rain-water. | SAMVAD VAHIKA. |
| The crops. | 52. The Uparbhag correspondent of the same paper makes a similar statement. | SAMVAD VAHIKA. |
| Education of the minor landholders of encumbered estates in Chota Nagpur. | 53. The same paper approves of the proposal of Government to make education compulsory in the case of the sons of the landholders of encumbered estates in Chota Nagpur. | SAMVAD VAHIKA. |
| 54. The <i>Garjatbasini</i> [Talcher] of the 24th June states that the temperature is very high in Talcher, and that unless it rains soon, the young paddy plants will die of drought. | | GARJATBASINI,
June 24th, 1905. |
| The weather and the crops in Talcher. | | |
| 55. The same paper thanks the Raja of Bamra for importing two expert weavers from Chinsura to Bamra with the object of training the weavers of that State in the improved methods of weaving, on the lines indicated by the Utkal Union Conference. | | GARJATBASINI. |
| Improvement of the methods of weaving in Bamra. | | |
| 56. The <i>Star of Utkal</i> [Cuttack] of the 24th June advocates the necessity of a higher class girls' school in Cuttack and advises the Committee in charge of the Ravenshaw Girls' School to transfer the management of the school to Miss Das who, it thinks, is in a position to give new life to the institution by raising its status and by increasing its prestige. Should the Committee fail to transfer the school to Miss Das, she will be at liberty to found a girls' school of her own. | | STAR OF UTKAL,
June 24th, 1905. |
| A higher class girls' school in Cuttack. | | |
| 57. The <i>Utkaldipika</i> [Cuttack] of the 24th June states that rain is urgently wanted by the cultivators, inasmuch as young paddy plants have died in many places for want of rain-water. | | UTKALDIPIKA,
June 24th, 1905. |
| The weather and the crops in Cuttack. | | |
| 58. The same paper says that fever prevails widely in the Cuttack town. | | UTKALDIPIKA. |
| Fever at Cuttack. | | |

UTKALDIPKA.

59. The Puri correspondent of the same paper says that young paddy plants are reported to have died in many places in the interior of that district through want of rain-water, that the temperature is high, and that though clouds sometimes appear, there is very little rain.

UTKALDIPKA.

The health of Puri.

60. The same correspondent says that the health of Puri town is good.

UTKALDIPKA.

61. The Jajpur correspondent of the same paper says that the heat at Jajpur is so great as to be simply unbearable and the weather oppressive.

UTKALDIPKA.

A meeting at Jajpur in aid of the Earthquake Relief Fund.

62. The same correspondent is sorry to note that the attendance at a meeting convened at the Jajpur Higher English school-house for helping the sufferers from the late earthquake in the Punjab was meagre and that the subscription raised for the purpose was poor, amounting only to Rs. 31-12.

UTKALDIPKA.

Eye-disease in Jajpur.

63. The same correspondent says that eye-disease prevails in Jajpur, attacking young and old indiscriminately.

UTKALDIPKA.

64. The Mayurbhanj

The late Dewan of Mayurbhanj.

correspondent of the same paper deeply mourns the death of Babu Prasanna Kumar Ghosal, late Dewan of Mayurbhanj, and hopes that a qualified Uriya will be permitted to succeed him.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD, June 1st, 1905.

The late Dewan of Mayurbhanj.

65. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 21st June also mourns the death of the Dewan.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

66. The same paper

Snan Jatra ceremony at Puri.

says that the *Snan Jatra* ceremony at Puri passed off without a hitch on the 17th instant and that the total number of pilgrims was about 30,000, of whom nearly 15,000 came from Bengal.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

67. Referring to the

The question of the improvement of the agricultural classes.

proposed meeting of the landholders at Kurmabad in the district of Gujranwalla in the Punjab, with the alleged object of considering and devising various means for the improvement of the agricultural classes, the same paper points out that no good can come out of such meetings. The only way to relieve the landed interest is to reduce the land-tax and to grant permanent settlement of revenue to areas that are in a depressed condition.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

68. The same paper

The results of the Government Colleges and Schools in Orissa at the University Examination.

states that though the results of the F. A. and B. A. Examinations, as shewn by the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, are satisfactory, the results of the Entrance Examination, as shewn by the school attached to the College, are not so. Of the Government schools in Orissa, the Puri Zilla School, and of the private and aided schools in that Province, the Peary Mohan Academy and the Cuttack Mission School have shown the best results in the last Entrance Examination.

URIYA AND NAVASAMVAD.

69. A correspondent

Breaches of marriage contracts in Orissa.

of the same paper cites instances to show that breaches of marriage contracts in Orissa have become so many as to demand the immediate attention of the elders of the native community, for recourse to the Civil Court is not easy and is oftentimes disastrous in various ways.

ASSAM PAPERS.

PARIDARSAN. June 30th, 1905.

70. The *Paridarsan* [Sylhet]

Cattle-pounds in Sylhet.

of the 30th June complains of the deplorable condition of the cattle-pounds in that district. No stores of fodder grass are previously laid in for the rainy months when the fields remain submerged and the animals cannot be allowed to graze in the open but must be fed in their stalls. Then, again, very few of the pounds are properly fenced in and the floors are generally full of mud. It is suggested that Government should discontinue the present system of farming out these pounds and take them under its direct control, or if the existing system is continued at all, provide for a Pound Inspector in each subdivision to keep due watch on the farmers.

71. The same paper writes:—

The Sylhet Jail.

We made a number of serious allegations against the management of the Sylhet Jail in our issue of the 15th May last [see Report on Native Papers for the week ending the 27th May, paragraph 87], which have attracted the notice of the Chief Commissioner. Major Hall, the Superintendent of the Jail, has been directed to visit the Jail in person and there to make an inquiry into the truth or otherwise of the allegations. We hear that Major Hall examined the Jail employes in the presence of the Jailor himself. We further understand that Major Hall's inquiry has been ordered to be directed principally to these points: (1) Whether it is a fact that any death occurred in the Sylhet Jail on the 7th April last. If any death did occur, whether it was brought about by working at the oil-press. (2) Whether it is a fact that two persons fainted while working at the oil-press at about 10-30 A.M. on Saturday, the 13th May last. Whether the prisoners in the Sylhet Jail are made to work at the oil-press after 6 o'clock in the evening. There are many other points, besides, on which Major Hall is to inquire and report.

There is a warder in the Sylhet Jail of the name of Mani Ram Deb, who, we hear, is a great favourite with the Jailor. It is under his guidance that the Jailor employs prisoners at the oil-press. What is the reason for the Jailor to like Mani Ram so excessively? Is there any deep mystery at the bottom of it all? We hear that Mani Ram can at his choice make anybody and everybody work at the oil-press. We do not know through the exercise of what charm Mani Ram has become such a favourite with the Jailor. To employ the prisoners at the oil-press is to put them to the hardest form of labour; at the instance of a petty warder and without any personal examination of the health of the prisoners, to put prisoners to work in the oil-press in this terribly hot weather is an act on the part of the Jailor, the cruelty and indiscretion of which it is for our readers to judge. We have already said that no prisoner is let off before he is able to show an outturn of three seers of oil as the result of his labour for the day.

There are altogether 40 oil-presses in the Sylhet Jail. Of these, at 30 of the presses, 30 men are employed, while at the remaining 10, 20 men are employed. It comes to this, therefore, that at 40 presses, 50 men do the work of extracting oil at the Sylhet Jail. In the first place the season is now warm, then work at the oil-press is the hardest form of labour; add to these the harassments of the warder; no wonder therefore that the health of many of the prisoners working at the oil-press is breaking down and that some are even fainting while at work.

A prisoner was sent from Karimganj to the Sylhet Jail some time ago. He died on the 23rd May last. He also is said to have been employed at work in the oil-press.

At about 9 o'clock on the morning of Wednesday, the 28th June last, a prisoner fainted while working at the oil-press. Two other similar cases of fainting occurred on the 13th May last. If one or two prisoners die while working at the oil-press, who will be responsible, the Jailor or Mani Ram?

We suggested that it would be a great relief to the prisoners if every turn was taken by two prisoners instead of one as now. The Jailor did not adopt our suggestion.

NARAYAN CHANDRA BHATTACHARYYA,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 8th July 1905.

REPORT (PART II)

ON

NATIVE-OWNED ENGLISH NEWSPAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending Saturday, 8th July 1905.

CONTENTS.

	Page.		Page.
I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.		(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation—	
The Russian menace	241	Time limit of return tickets on the East Indian Railway	243
The Dalai Lama	ib.	The Cash Department of the East Indian Railway	244
II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.		Alleged misconduct of railway employés	ib.
(a)—Police—		Third-class passengers	ib.
Panchayet unions	241	(h)—General—	
"Not Inspectors, but Drill Inspectors"	ib.	The Rolt case	244
Dacoity in Bankipur	ib.	The partition question	ib.
(b)—Working of the Courts—		Ditto ditto	245
The case of Raja Saroda Narayan Singh	242	The prolonged stay of the Secretariat staff in Darjeeling	ib.
Nepotism in the office of the District Judge of Nadia	ib.	Mr. A. G. Harrison, Examiner of Accounts	ib.
A boy-Magistrate	ib.	Mr. Carey's appeal to the Government of India	ib.
Raja Gokul Das, of Jubbulpur	ib.	Mr. B. De	ib.
A failure of justice	ib.	III.—LEGISLATION.	
(c)—Jails—		Nil.	
Nil.		IV.—NATIVE STATES.	
(d)—Education—		Nil.	
Nil.		V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.	
(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration—		Nil.	
Water-scarcity in Calcutta	243	VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.	
The Bankipur Municipality	ib.	The Curzon-Kitchener controversy	245
Municipal pranks	ib.	The prosperity of India	246
Lord Curzon and the Simla Municipality	ib.	Bankipur leads the way	ib.
(f)—Questions affecting the land—		Hankering after Government service	ib.
Nil.		Will Lord Curzon resign?	ib.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

853. Since the days of Peter the Great, writes the *Indian Mirror*, Russia's sole aim has been to wrest India from the British, and with this object she has been slowly but surely

INDIAN MIRROR,
25th June 1905.

The Russian menace. gravitating towards the south of Asia. She has gradually been extending her flanks, while her centre has been protected by the mountains of Afghanistan and the deserts of Eastern Turkestan and Mongolia, so that, driven back on one flank, she would be able to throw all her forces into the other. Her left flank has sustained a crushing defeat at the hands of the Japanese, and it is feared that, having received a check in that direction, she will fall back on her right and make a dash for her goal. Moreover, Russian activity in Central Asia strongly points to such a contingency, and it is a matter of no little significance that while she has been depleting her treasury of its millions in abortive and superhuman efforts in Manchuria, she has found the time and money to construct a line of railway upwards of 1,000 miles in length across a country which has never been described, even by the most enthusiastic advocate of railway expansion, as anything but unpopulated and unproductive steppe. The Panjdeh affair of 1885 showed that the Russians were bent on establishing their outposts as near as possible to Herat, and the net result of the Afghan Boundary Commission was the driving of a Russian wedge into the country immediately to the north of Paropamisus Range. Since then highly strategic railways have been constructed, and all these facts constitute a positive Russian menace of which British statesmen cannot but take serious and adequate notice.

854. *Power and Guardian* is not inclined to regard the Czar's deputation to the Dalai Lama as apart from Indian politics and as a formal interchange of amenities, but as an

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
2nd July 1905.

The Dalai Lama. attempt to recover lost ground or to gain some new advantage. Moreover, Russia has at no time of her existence been a disinterested wooer, as the Indian Government know to their cost. The murder of the Chinese Amiban, who contributed so largely to the execution of the Tibetan convention, has remained a mystery, and this almost immediately preceding, as it does, the deputation to the Dalai Lama, shows that the Tibetan drama is not yet at an end.

II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a,—Police.

855. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Suri correspondent writes that a Muhammadan gentleman has been appointed on a salary of Rs. 200 a month to select Presidents for

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
21st June 1905.

Punchayet unions. the punchayet unions. The writer states that complaints are being heard on every side that the claims of really representative men are being ignored, so that the new punchayets will be as unpopular as the old ones. It is hoped that the District Magistrate will inquire into these allegations.

856. The *Bengalee* is disappointed at the optimistic view which certain of its contemporaries have taken in regard to the recent appointment of 23 Europeans as "Drill Inspectors." It is true that they have not been appointed as Inspectors direct, but is it not extremely likely that at some future time they will be merged into the ranks of Inspectors, to the further exclusion of the Indian element? Thus, in supporting Sir Andrew Fraser in the matter, the *Bengalee* considers that its contemporary the *Hindoo Patriot* has not only shown itself unbecomingly servile, but has been guilty of a distinct disservice to its countrymen.

BENGALIEE,
23rd June 1905.

857. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Bankipur correspondent writes on the 26th instant that recently a band of robbers entered his house at dead of night and were carrying off

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th June 1905.

Dacoity in Bankipur. all the moveable property they could lay hands on, when their operations were frustrated by the inmates of the house being suddenly aroused. The writer complains that not only was the neighbourhood in utter darkness, but there was not a single chaukidar to be found to help in arresting the culprits.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th June 1905.

858. Reverting to the case of Saroda Narayan Singh, the 'lunatic' Raja of Giridih, the *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the Deputy Commissioner of Hazaribagh applied to the Judicial Commissioner for the appointment of a Commission to inquire into the mental condition of the Raja, on the ground that he had shown incapacity in managing two cases relating to his estate and also on the ground that he believed in mesmerism! If this is the law on the subject, every zamindar in India has reason to tremble, for it would be impossible to point to a single landholder who has not at some time or other mismanaged his affairs and lost heavily. Any District Officer might therefore pounce upon him and with the help of a few witnesses prove him to be a lunatic, and put his estate under the Court of Wards!

The journal, however, is very doubtful of the madness attributed to the unfortunate Raja, judging from the able way in which he has baffled the attempts of his opponents to oust him from his estate.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th June 1905.

859. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the apprentices who serve in the office of the District Judge of Nadia do so in the hope that when a vacancy occurs they will be provided for, but it seems their expectations are destined to end in disappointment. Some time ago the post of Sheristadar fell vacant, and an outsider was brought all the way from Assam to fill it, although there were efficient men in the office itself. The same course was followed in regard to two other clerical appointments, to the detriment and loss of the hard working apprentices. The journal draws the attention of the District Judge to this matter and asks him to look to the interests of his subordinates.

BENGALIE,
30th June 1905.

860. The *Bengalee* writes that a case recently came on for hearing before the Subdivisional Officer of Murree, in which a servant in the employ of a pleader charged a European gentleman and lady and their sweeper with having trespassed into his kitchen and assaulted him. The complainant showed certain marks of violence in support of his complaint, but nevertheless Mr. Boughey, the trying Magistrate, dismissed the case as the assault was a very slight one. All that can be urged in favour of the Magistrate is that he is an officer of three years' standing only, but after this, can the Indians rid themselves of the belief that they will never get justice when the accused are Europeans?

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
30th June 1905.

861. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws attention to the case of Raja Gokul Das, of Jubbulpur. The facts of which are as follows. It appears that Raja Gokul Das owns three bungalows in the Cantonment and that in March last the Cantonment Magistrate, who was informed that the bungalows were in a dirty condition, served a notice on Nanak Ram, the Raja's agent, to remove the rubbish, etc. The rubbish was accordingly thrown into the dust-bin, but nevertheless the agent was tried and fined Rs. 50 under sections 84-85 of the Contonment Act. In this case Major Rait, the Magistrate, was prosecutor, witness, and judge rolled into one. The Judicial Commissioner, to whom an appeal was preferred, concluded his adverse comments on the trial of the case with the following remarks:—"Major Rait must clearly understand that the ordinary rules of law and procedure are as binding on him as upon other Courts. Unless he elects to act according to rules of law and procedure, the question of his fitness to exercise such powers will have to be seriously considered." This shows how justice is being administered in India.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
4th July 1905.

862. The *Indian Empire* complains that Mr. Barnicott, the Assistant Magistrate of Nadia, one day saw the muharrir of a respectable mukhtear sleeping. The sight so irritated him, that he could not refrain from severely assaulting the poor man, who filed a complaint before Mr. Abdul Kadir, Deputy Magistrate. The latter submitted the records for the orders of the District Magistrate, who dismissed the petition on the ground that accused had no intention of assaulting the complainant! Was there not a lamentable failure of justice in this case?

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

863. The *Bengalee* complains that last Monday hundreds of people in the northern division of the town could have been seen running in vain from hydrant to hydrant to get water. Even in the area that boasts of a "continuous water-supply," the supply has been very scanty, and in these intensely hot days, when scarcity of food is a lesser evil than scarcity of water, the hardships the poor rate-payers have to put up with are indescribable. Will not the City Fathers interpellate the Chairman on the subject and try to ascertain the real cause of the reduction in the supply of filtered water?

BENGALÉE,
23rd June 1905.

864. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika's* Bankipur correspondent complains that in spite of their deplorably dusty condition, the roads are hardly ever watered. Some thoroughfares are conspicuous by a total absence of drainage of any kind, and what the result will be when the monsoon bursts can better be imagined than described. The roads will not only be rendered impassable, but the public health will be seriously endangered owing to the accumulation of stagnant water.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
29th June 1905.

865. *Power and Guardian* writes that a total absence of supervision appears to be the distinguishing mark of the present Corporation, and cites the following instances of neglect on the part of its officers.

POWER AND
GUARDIAN,
2nd July 1905.

Although the Corporation have in their employ officers designated 'Lighting Inspectors,' the public appear to derive very little benefit from their services. This is specially the case with those who live in the lane north of the temple of Nakulesor Mahadeb in Kalighat. Then, again, Russa Road which is a favourite resort of those who long for a breath of fresh air in these sultry evenings, is watered with deplorable irregularity. To crown these hardships of the rate-payers of Bhowanipur, their filtered water-supply is as uncertain as life itself. This discreditable state of affairs is the direct result of the Mackenzie Act, and yet this defective piece of legislation is allowed to exist.

866. If the Simla correspondent of the *Civil and Military Gazette* is to be credited, the *Indian Empire* fears that the Simla Municipality will share the same fate as the Calcutta Municipality and for precisely the same reasons, namely, the refusal on the part of the Commissioners to allow municipal laws to be disregarded. The Simla Municipality were authoritatively informed that the Viceroy's trip to Mashobra necessitated the opening of a tonga line by the 4th June. The Commissioners in reply informed Government that the use of tongas within municipal limits was contrary to the byelaws and *could not be permitted*. The expected result is that the Municipal Committee will cease to exist by October next!

INDIAN EMPIRE,
4th July 1905.

(g)—Railways and Communications, including Canals and Irrigation.

867. The *Bengalee* writes that formerly return tickets available for two days remained in force for a complete period of 48 hours, but now the date of issue is counted as one day, so that a passenger leaving Calcutta for Serampore by the last train at night and having in his possession a two-day return ticket finds to his surprise that the two days are reduced in his case to a little over 24 hours. Moreover, as this extraordinary change has not been notified for the information of the public, many a passenger is put to considerable inconvenience and additional expense on account of the fines that are imposed for travelling with time-expired tickets. The journal insists that the Railway Company should notify the above change as widely as possible.

BENGALÉE,
25th June 1905.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th June 1905.

868. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* draws attention to the manifold grievances of the employes in the Cash Department of the East Indian Railway. Whenever a vacancy occurs it is invariably given either to a relative or favourite of the Treasurer, while those clerks who are unfortunate enough to be neither are never permitted to enjoy a holiday and are made to attend office at 9-30 A.M. and work till 7 in the evening! The Treasurer's 'men,' however, are privileged to absent themselves without notice and to attend office at 12 A.M. This is not all. Some of the employes in the department are even permitted to trade with the Company's money!

BENGALIEE,
28th June 1905.

869. A correspondent writes to the *Bengalee* that on the 22nd instant, Guard O'Shea, of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, who was proceeding on transfer from Calcutta to Katihar, grossly misconducted himself.

Alleged misconduct of railway employes.

He was travelling in a second-class compartment, and when a native passenger, belonging to the Public Works Department, desired to get in, he obstructed him, although there was room enough in the carriage. The latter, however, with the help of his superior officer who was travelling in a first-class carriage, managed to get in. This so incensed Guard O'Shea, that at one of the intermediate station he got into the first-class compartment and insulted the gentleman, saying that he had turned his subordinate out of the carriage. Guard Brown, who was in charge of the train, was informed, but refused to take any steps. O'Shea alighted at the next station and went back to the intermediate compartment, where he undressed and in a semi-nude state began to walk up and down the platform. After this he entered his carriage and began to beat his wife. The police were called for, but were nowhere to be seen on the platform.

INDIAN EMPIRE,
24th June 1905.

870. The *Indian Empire* writes that as it is the third-class passengers who contribute most largely to the earnings of railways, their comfort and welfare should be the first consideration of railway administrations. This, however, is not the case so far as Indians are concerned, but nevertheless the journal is gratified to learn that their long-standing grievances are soon to be terminated by the Railway Board. The journal points to the following as the most urgent reforms, and hopes that they will receive immediate attention :—

Third-class passengers.

- (1) The overcrowding of third-class carriages ;
- (2) The provision of latrines in third-class carriages ; and
- (3) The removal of the severe restrictions imposed upon natives as regards easy access to trains.

(h)—General.

NEW INDIA,
10th June 1905.

871. *New India* writes that the Rolt case is a triumph not of justice only (if of justice at all), but of Anglo-Indian opinion over Executive Government, and it is this phase that is fraught with danger to the country. The Government is the only refuge of the masses against European aggression, and hence they are naturally very jealous of any ascendancy the Anglo-Indian community may acquire over the responsible Government of the land. Cases like that of Mr. Rolt are matters of almost every-day occurrence in the *mufassal* and receive only a passing notice when the victim is a prominent Indian, but nevertheless it is not within the recollection of anybody that the High Court has taken the trouble to record a special Minute or the Government has offered compensation. What was the upshot of the Chapra case, to say nothing of the more recent Tilak case? It cannot be contended that the conduct of the Poona officials was less scandalous than that of the Purnea officials in regard to the Rolt case. This is the practical standpoint from which the Indians view the matter, and they are not pleased at the Government's servile action.

The Rolt case.

BENGALIEE,
25th June 1905.

872. It would appear from the latter part of the Secretary of State's reply to the question put by Mr. Herbert Roberts, M. P., writes the *Bengalee*, that the rumour that the Partition scheme has been sanctioned, is not without a solid basis. The people must prepare themselves for the impending crisis.

The Partition question.

BENGAL, 30th June 1905.

873. Bad news is seldom unfounded, and on this principle the *Bengalee* is not inclined to discredit the information that the Secretary of State had sanctioned the Partition scheme. It, however, still sees a ray of hope, inasmuch as the rumour has not been confirmed by the leading journals and the Anglo-Indian Press. On the other hand, the fact must be faced that, as the Cabinet have thrown Lord Curzon overboard in the matter of military reorganization, it is almost sure to propitiate His Excellency in some other way, and the only way appears to be to sanction his pet scheme for the dismemberment of Bengal.

The Partition question.

874. The *Bengalee* writes that the arrangement by which the Secretariat staff are to remain in Darjeeling till October instead of coming down to the presidency in July as usual, is directly opposed to the clear instructions of the Government of India on the subject. The increase in the expenditure incurred on account of the annual exodus to Darjeeling had so long as 20 years ago attracted the notice of the India Government, and it was then distinctly laid down that only four months were to be spent in the hills. It was further laid down that the Secretaries only should accompany the Lieutenant-Governor with a very small staff of clerks. In later years the privilege was extended to the Under-Secretaries as well, and the expenditure in consequence has steadily increased. The journal thinks that the Government of India should again intervene in the interests of economy.

The prolonged stay of the Secretariat staff in Darjeeling.

BENGAL, 25th June 1905.

875. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that Mr. A. G. Harrison was appointed Examiner of Public Works Accounts in October 1903, and within the short period of 20 months, he has caused the greatest consternation in the department owing to his vigorous measures. Retirements, dismissals, and degradations have taken place *galore*, and fines have been freely imposed. The journal publishes a long list of such instances, and hopes that the Accountant-General will inquire into them.

Mr. A. G. Harrison, Examiner of Accounts.

AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, 29th June 1905.

876. The *Bengalee* regards Mr. Carey's appeal to the Government of India as ill-advised, as it cannot be contended that this officer has been punished without receiving ample and persistent warning. Referring to the observation of the *Statesman* that "the degradation of Mr. Carey lends support to the current suspicion that under the present administration in Bengal an offending officer is certain of being brought within the range of official censure and punishment only when he happens to be the object of reprobation by the more persistent section of the Bengali Press," the journal writes that its Anglo-Indian contemporary must have a very poor opinion of the Lieutenant-Governor if it thinks that His Honour is capable of sacrificing an innocent officer merely to silence the clamour of the Bengali Press!

Mr. Carey's appeal to the Government of India.

BENGAL, 30th June 1905.

877. The *Indian Mirror* writes that it has been reserved for Sir Andrew Fraser to do justice to Mr. B. De, whose claims to promotion had been studiously overlooked by a succession of Lieutenant-Governors. Mr. De is an officer of sterling merit, and His Honour has gained the lasting gratitude of the people by this act of bare justice, however tardy. Following as this does, Mr. Carey's exemplary and deserved punishment, the province is certain of Sir Andrew Fraser's high sense of duty.

Mr. B. De.

INDIAN MIRROR, 1st July 1905.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

878. The *Indian Nation* writes that since Lord Curzon declares himself to be a believer in experts, why should he differ from Lord Kitchener in regard to the organisation of the Army? Is it because he believes only in such experts as he can control? But whatever may be the case in regard to Commerce, Finance, Education or Law, the Army is the one department of the State in the administration of which expert opinion cannot be disregarded with safety, and if the Commander-in-Chief is to be responsible for the efficiency

The Curzon-Kitchener controversy.

INDIAN NATION, 26th June 1905.

of the Army and for the proper defence of the country, it is not only fair but indispensable that his advice should be listened to, or rather his directions obeyed.

AMRITA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
28th June 1905.

879. The *Amrita Bazar Patrika* writes that the discussion on the Indian Budget is not an unnecessary farce, for it gives the Secretary of State a suitable opportunity of pro-

claiming the flourishing condition of India before an assemblage sublimely ignorant of Indian affairs and of the unique methods of government obtaining in this country. But if India is *really* prosperous, why these frequent famines, why this absolute inability to contend against the ravages of plague, malaria and other epidemic diseases? Millions of people die annually from actual starvation or from maladies that owe their origin to insufficiency of food. Can any other country in the world present such a spectacle? No, India is not the prosperous country her rulers for reasons of their own make her out to be. She is becoming poorer daily, and the crash must soon come unless something is done to avert it.

BENGALIEE,
30th June 1905.

880. The *Bengalee* is quite at a loss to account for the excitement that prevails in Bankipur owing to the Secretary of State's decision in regard to the Curzon-Kitchener

controversy, and its astonishment is all the greater inasmuch as the people of Bankipur did not utter a word of protest against any of Lord Curzon reactionary and startling measures, such as the Universities Act, the Official Secrets Act, etc. The persistent agitation in the Anglo-Indian Press, coupled with the threatened demonstration at Bankipur, is calculated to raise a strong suspicion that wire-pulling is going on somewhere, and the capital of Bihar should pause and reflect before she takes a step that will not only place her in a ridiculous minority but will make her the laughing-stock of the entire Indian Empire.

NEW INDIA,
1st July 1905.

881. *New India* is gratified to find that the tide of enlightened public opinion in this country has set against the hankering Indians have for entering the service of Government. The journal holds that if the material condition of India is to be improved, the spirit of enterprise and independence must be awakened among its countrymen.

NEW INDIA,
21st July 1905.

882. *New India* writes that speculation is rife as to whether Lord Curzon will resign in consequence of the defeat he has sustained in his brush with the Commander-in-Chief. For its own part the journal thinks that His Excellency will not give up office now owing to the impending visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales. Lord Curzon has striven to bring this auspicious visit about during the term of his own Viceroyalty, and unless he utterly belies the popular estimate of his pomp-loving character, he will quietly pocket the rebuff which the Home Government have done their best to lessen by simultaneously sanctioning the scheme for the partition of Bengal. The authorities in England know their man and have played their cards judiciously.

OFFICE OF THE INSPR.-GENL.
OF POLICE, L. P.
WRITERS' BUILDINGS,
The 8th July 1905.

F. C. DALY,
Asst. to the Insp.-Genl. of Police, L. P.